

UPLAND FOREST

Overview

Comprised of tall loblolly and longleaf pines, oaks and hickories, the upland forest covers a vast area of the Francis Marion National Forest. This forest type resides on sand "ridges" that were once beaches, when the ocean was further inland. The uplands provide important habitat for an array of flora and fauna including several endangered and protected species.

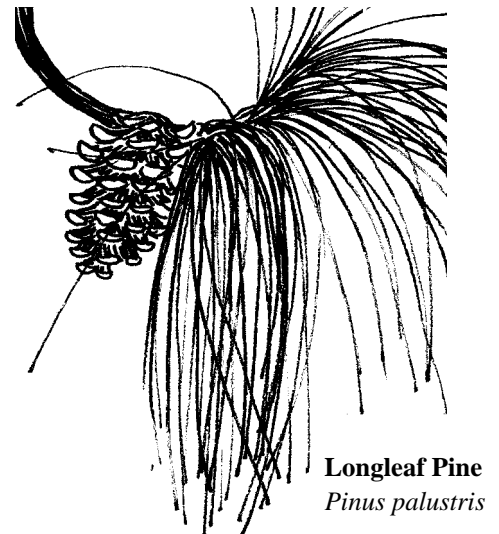
Species Checklist

Animals

Coopers hawk
fox squirrel
eastern wild turkey
flatwoods salamander
great-horned owl
king snake
red-cockaded woodpecker
summer tanager
white-tailed deer

Plants

bracken fern
flowering dogwood
hickories
loblolly pine
longleaf pine
oaks
sweet pepperbush



Longleaf Pine
Pinus palustris

Vocabulary

ecosystem	prescribed fire
endangered	regenerate
excavate	tar kiln
fauna	turpentine
fire-dependent	
flora	

Important Messages

The longleaf pine ecosystem is declining in the southeast, mainly due to the exclusion of fire and expanding urban development. Longleaf pine depends on fire to regenerate and grow.

The upland forest covers 85% of the Francis Marion National Forest. Each year, professionals prescribe burn 30,000 acres (about 10%) of the Forest. Prescribed fire has been used in the southeast as a land management tool since pre-colonial times.

The Forest Service manages upland forests for a wide array of goods and services including wood products and recreation. Examples of wood products include lumber for building homes and furniture as well as pulp for making paper.

Historically, upland longleaf pine forests were "farmed" for turpentine and tar, products of pine sap. To extract the tar, colonial settlers would build earthen mound ovens, called kilns. Turpentine and tar were used as sealers and waterproofers on ships.

The endangered red-cockaded woodpecker inhabits the upland pine forest and excavates cavity nests in living pine trees. There are nearly 350 family groups of woodpeckers thriving in the Francis Marion National Forest.

